

Demographic Profile of Virginia

**Presented to the
Council on Virginia's Future**

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The data in this document was obtained from the 2000 Census, the 2005 American Community Survey, and the Population Projections, each published by the United States Census Bureau. Both the 2005 age and gender estimates, as well as the school enrollment forecasts were produced by the Demographics and Workforce Section.

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1. Population

Virginia's population reached 7.5 million in 2005, maintaining the Commonwealth's position as the 12th largest state in the country. With an annual growth rate of 1.3 percent since 2000, the Commonwealth was growing faster than the nation as a whole — 1.0 percent (Fig. 1), as well as faster than the average for the South Atlantic division (1.1 percent). In comparison to neighboring states, Virginia's growth rate was higher than Maryland's rate of 1.1 percent, but slower than North Carolina's rate of 1.4 percent. Figure 2 shows the population growth for these three states between 1960 and 2005.

Virginia's population distribution was very uneven. The state's 11 metropolitan areas contained more than 85 percent of the total population. In 2005, two out of every three Virginians lived in the Northern Virginia, Richmond, or Virginia Beach metropolitan areas. The imbalance between metropolitan and non-metropolitan populations was further intensified by recent growth. Since 2000, 95 percent of the state's increase occurred in the 11 metropolitan areas.

The state's population growth was driven more by migration than by natural increase. Virginia's population increased by nearly one-half million people between 2000 and 2005; 53 percent as a result of migrants moving to Virginia from other states or countries, while the remaining 47 percent was due to a greater number of births than deaths.

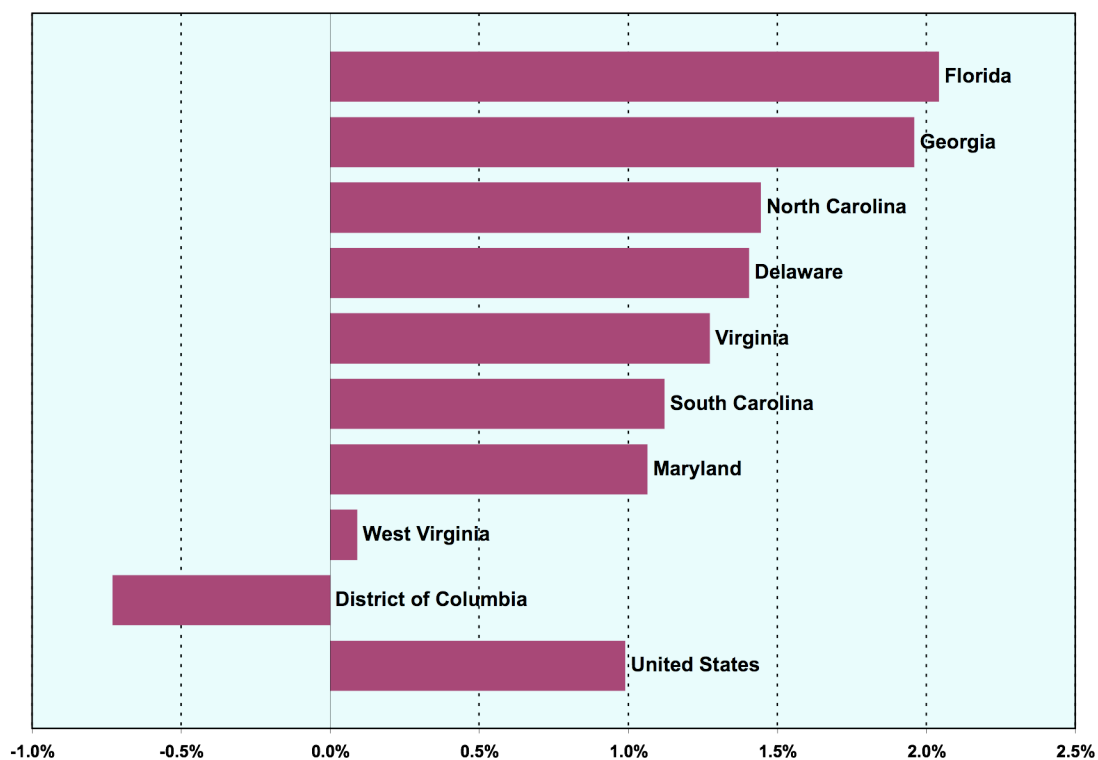


Figure 1. Annual Growth Rates for the South Atlantic States and the United States, 2000-2005

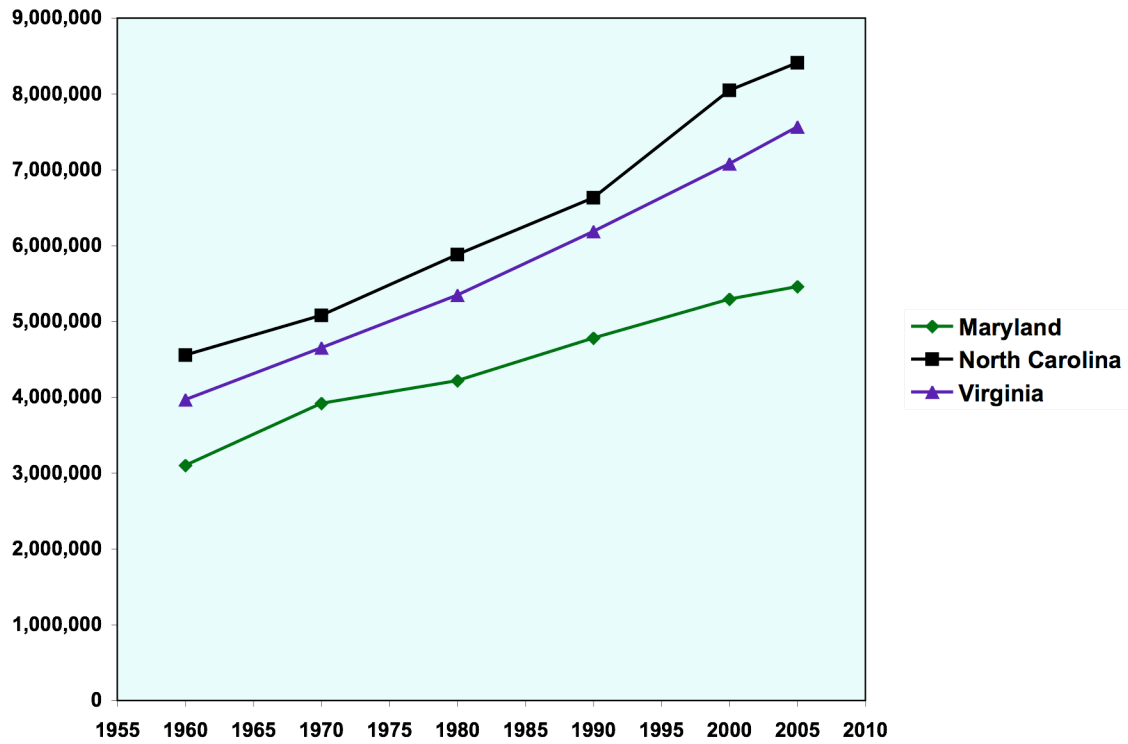


Figure 2. Population Growth in Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia, 1960-2005

2. Age and Gender

In 2005, one quarter of Virginia's population were under 18 years and 11.5 percent were 65 years and older (Fig. 3). The age distribution for Virginia and the U.S. were virtually identical. The median age in Virginia—the age at which half the population is older and half younger—was 36 years.

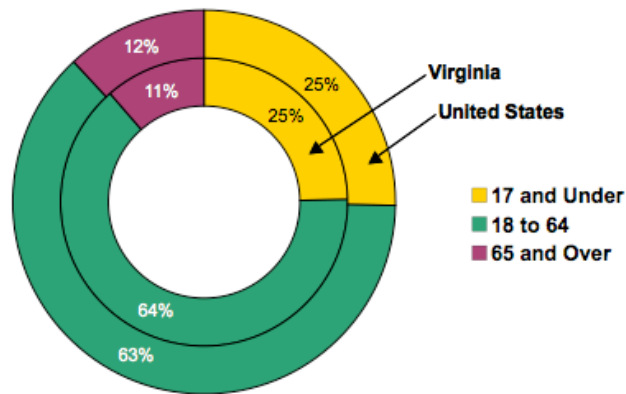


Figure 3. Age Distribution for Virginia and the United States, 2005

The 2005 population pyramid (Fig. 4), which shows the state's age cohorts by sex, distinctly shows the bulging baby boomer generation in the 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, and 55-59 age groups. It also shows there were significantly more women than men beyond age 65.

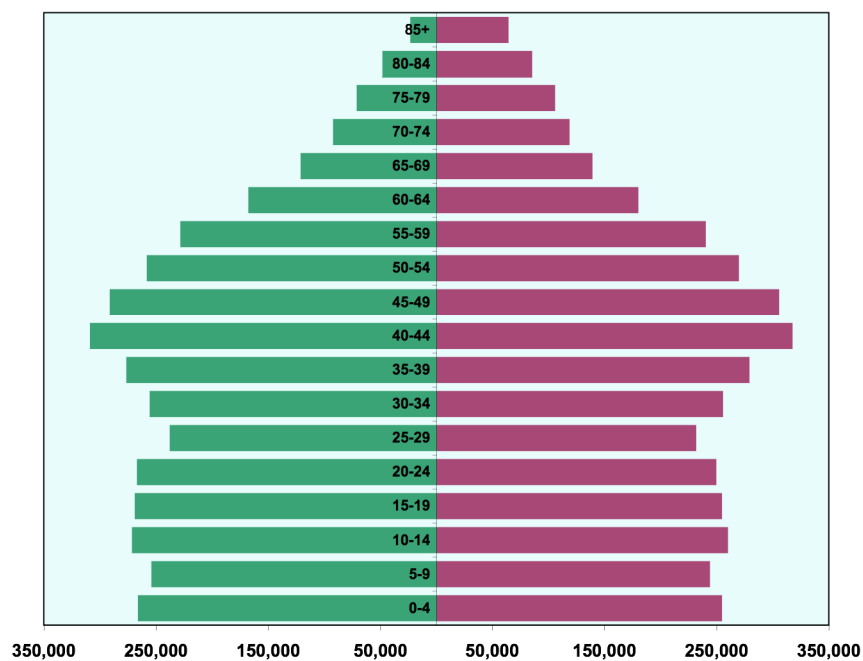


Figure 4. Population Pyramid for Virginia, 2005

The male population accounted for 49 percent of Virginia's total population in 2005, but this percentage varied by age (Fig. 5). The male proportion was approximately 51 percent for those under age 30, gradually declining for older ages. By age 65, the proportion of males dropped to 48 percent and then to 40 percent by age 80. For those aged 85 and over, only 27 percent were male. Among Virginia's 870,000 seniors in 2005, more than 513,000 were women.

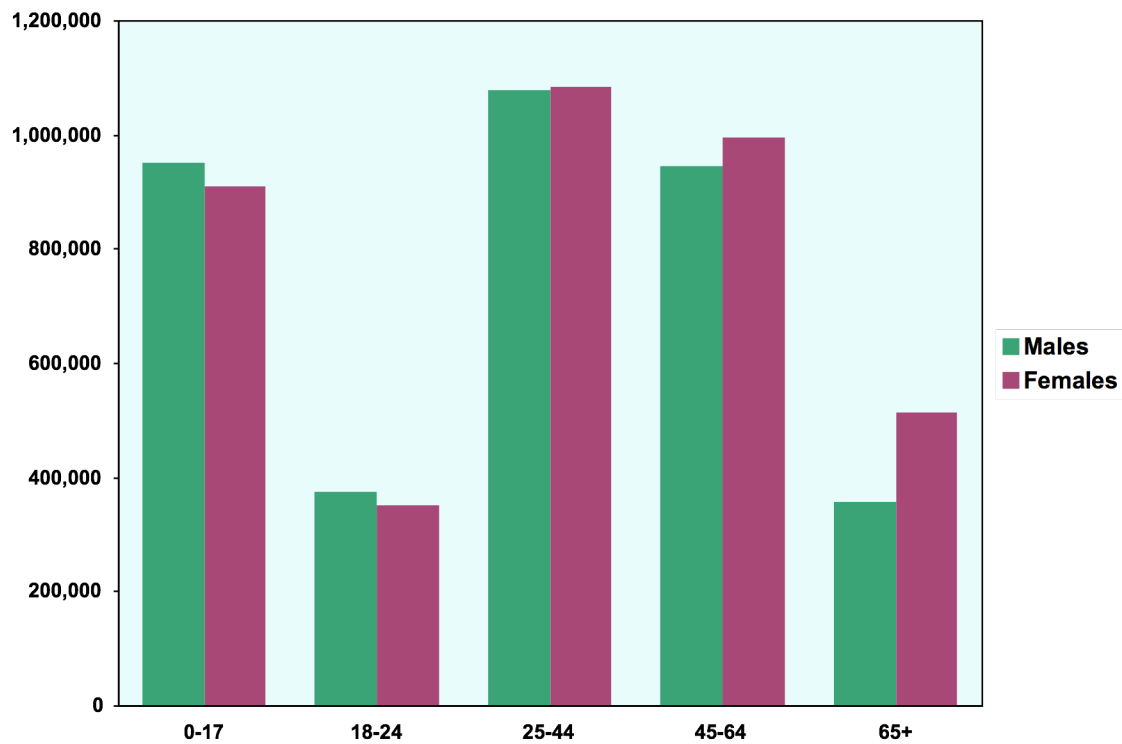


Figure 5. Age Distribution by Sex for Virginia, 2005

3. Race and Hispanic Origin

The distribution of race and Hispanic origin for Virginia's population was quite different from that for the nation. In 2005, for people reporting one race alone, 72 percent were White, 19 percent were Black or African American, less than 0.5 percent were American Indian and Alaska Native, 5 percent were Asian, less than 0.5 percent were Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and 2 percent were Some Other Race (Fig. 6). Two percent reported Two or More Races. The proportion of Black or African American for Virginia was significantly higher than the national average: 19 vs. 12 percent, respectively.

The Census Bureau defines people of Hispanic origin as those who identify their heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of themselves, their parents, or their ancestors as "Spanish", "Hispanic", or "Latino". Further, the Census Bureau states that people of Hispanic origin may be of any race. The proportion of Hispanic origin for Virginia was significantly lower than the national average: 6 vs. 15 percent, respectively (Fig. 7).

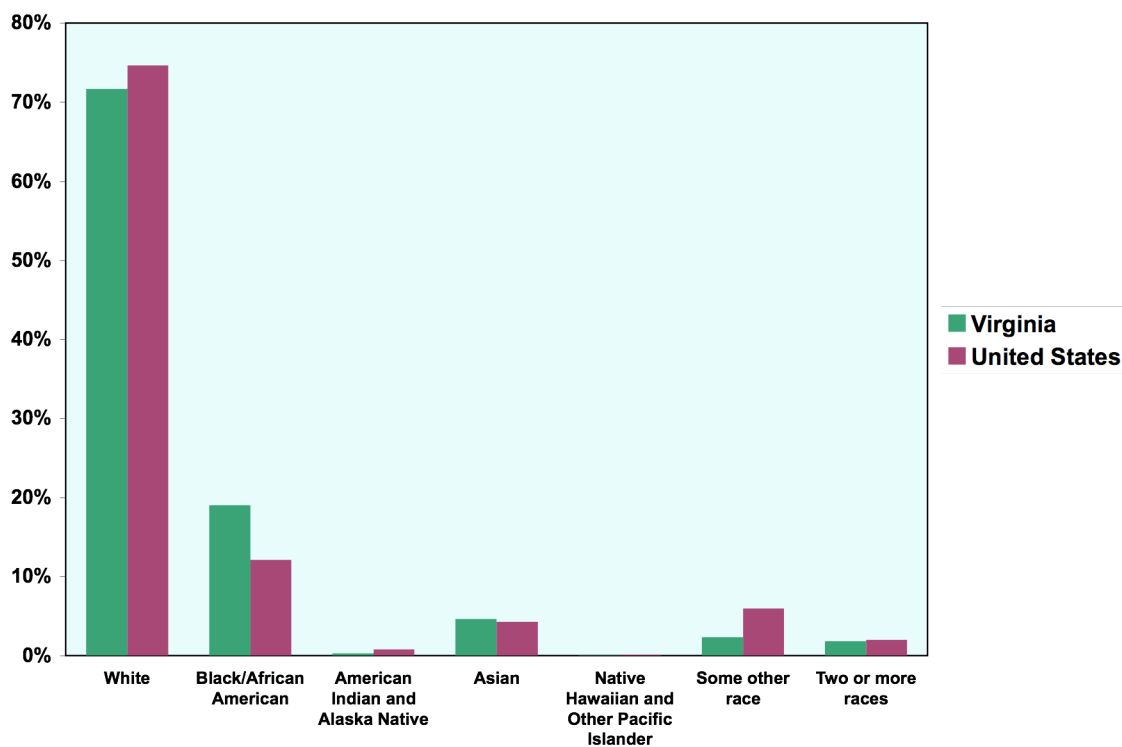


Figure 6. Racial Distribution for Virginia and the United States, 2005

Virginia's minority population has changed significantly over the last 35 years (Fig. 8). While the Black population has remained stable at approximately 19 percent since 1960, the Asian population has increased from 0.3 percent in 1970, to 2.6 percent in 1990, and to almost 5 percent in 2005. Similarly, the Hispanic population has increased from 1.0 percent in 1970, to 2.6 percent in 1990, and to nearly 6 percent in 2005. As a result, the

White population share of the total has gradually declined from 81 percent in 1970 to 72 percent in 2005.

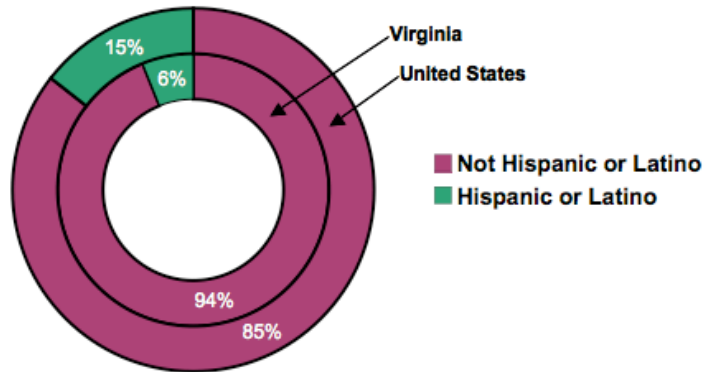


Figure 7. Hispanic Origin for Virginia and the United States, 2005

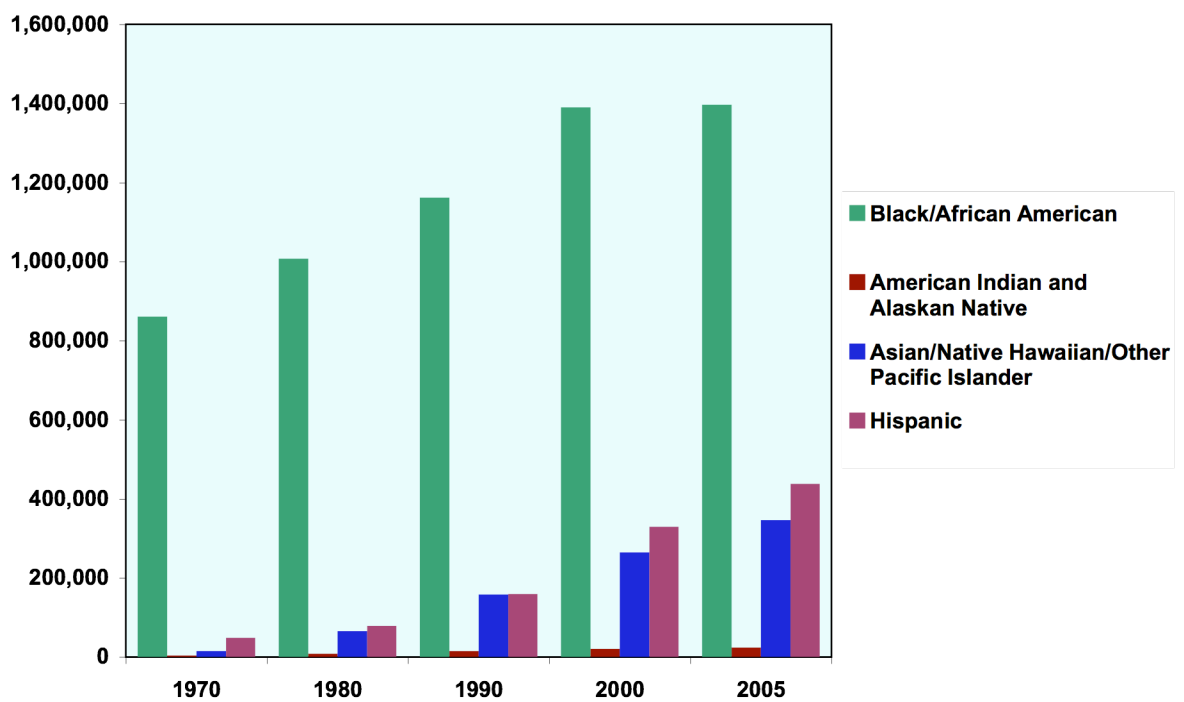


Figure 8. Distribution of Minorities in Virginia, 1970-2005

4. Households and Families

As defined by the Census Bureau, a household includes all the people who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence. A family is defined as a household consisting of two or more people who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption. Thus, a family contains a minimum of two persons, while a household may consist of a family, of a person living alone, or of several unrelated people living together.

In 2005, there were approximately 2.9 million households in Virginia. Families made up two-thirds of the total number of households. Approximately 51 percent were married-couple families, 12 percent were families headed by a single female, and 4 percent were families headed by a single male (Fig. 9). Twenty-seven percent of households in Virginia consisted of people living alone; among them, 30 percent were aged 65 and over. The remaining non-family households — 6 percent of total households — were comprised of persons living in households in which the householder was not related to any of the other residents.

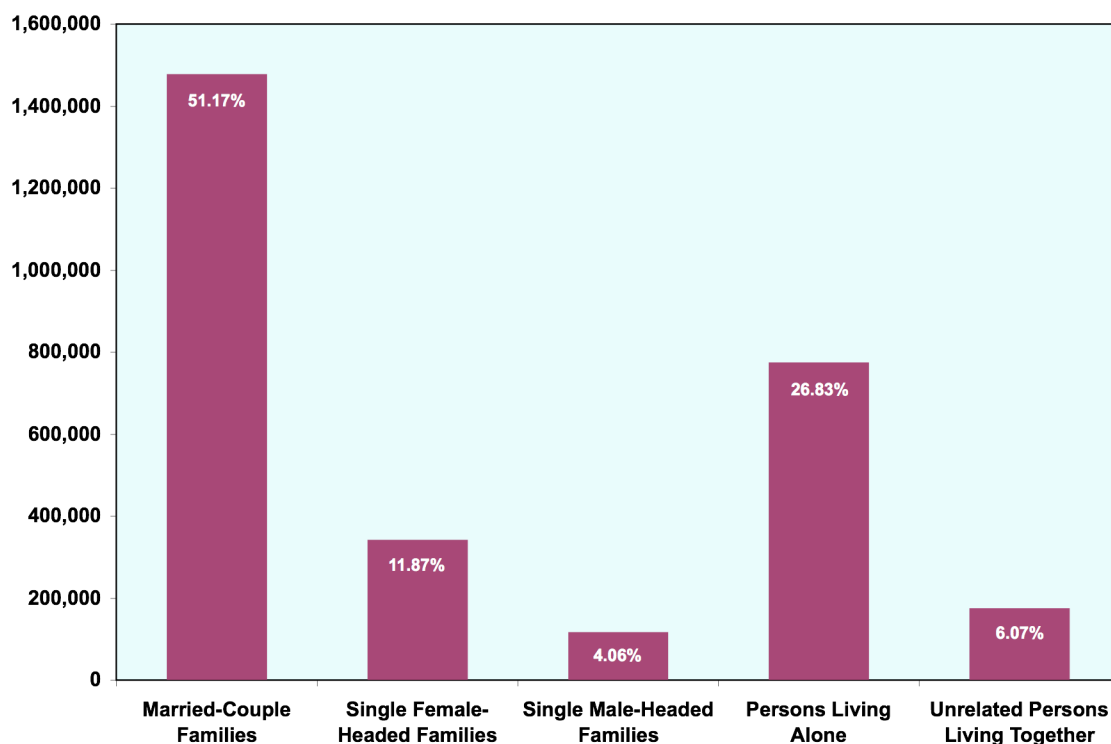


Figure 9. Types of Households in Virginia, 2005

Households with children under 18 years old made up approximately one-third of the total households. There were an estimated 20,000 same-sex, unmarried partner households in Virginia in 2005, accounting for 0.7 percent of the total.

The average family size was 3, and the average household size was 2.5.

5. Education

In 2005, 85 percent of the population age 25 years and over had at least earned a high school diploma (Fig. 10). Additionally, one-third of all Virginians had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 27 percent nationwide.

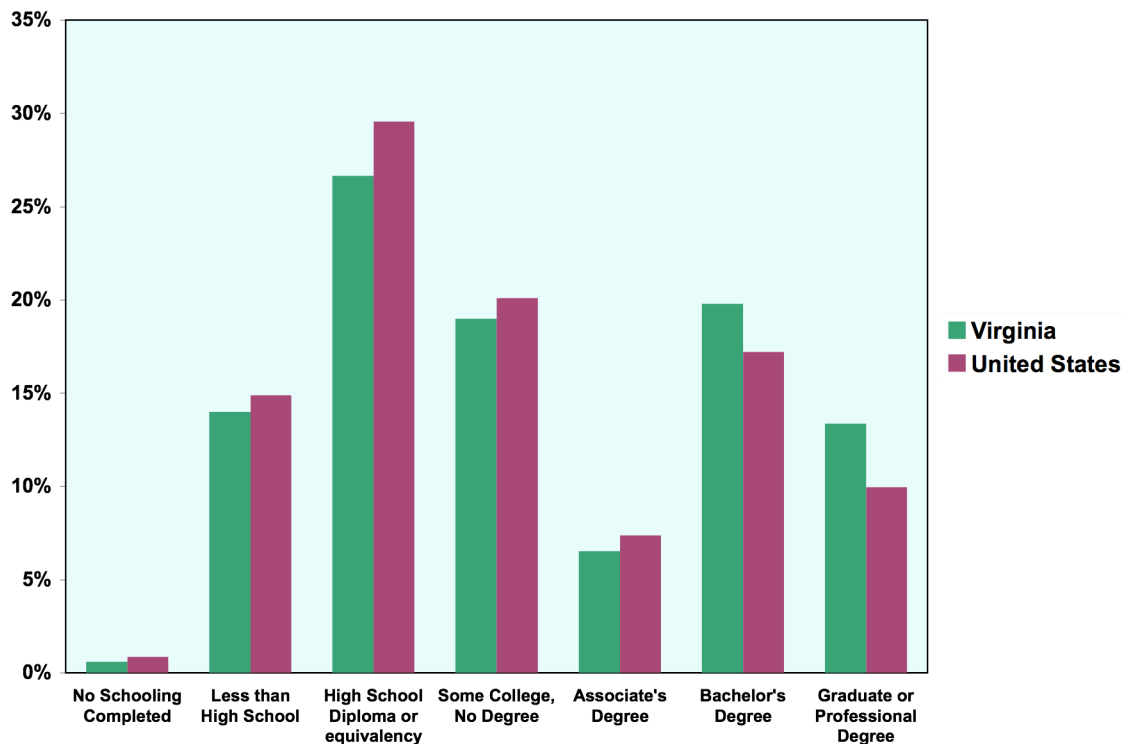


Figure 10. Educational Attainment for Virginia and the United States for Ages 25 and Over, 2005

Public school enrollment in Virginia was 1.2 million in 2005, accounting for 90 percent of the total enrollment (Fig. 11). Private school enrollment was estimated at 125,000, accounting for 9.5 percent of the total enrollment and one-tenth of the public school membership. The number of home-schooled children in Virginia increased rapidly over the past 15 years, from 3,000 in the early 1990s to 17,500 in 2005. Fewer than 6,000 students were granted religious exemptions from attending public school.

The number of students enrolled in public schools in 2005 was distributed as follows: 45 percent in elementary school, 24 percent in middle school, and 31 percent in high school. Public elementary school enrollment is projected to increase by nearly 32,000 to a total of 573,000 students in 2010 (Fig. 12). Public middle school enrollment is expected to decline by 2,300 students to 280,000 in 2010, and public high school membership will increase for the next two years and then begin to decline. By 2010, there will be approximately 371,000 public high school students. The total increase of public school enrollment between 2005 and 2010 is projected to be 34,000.

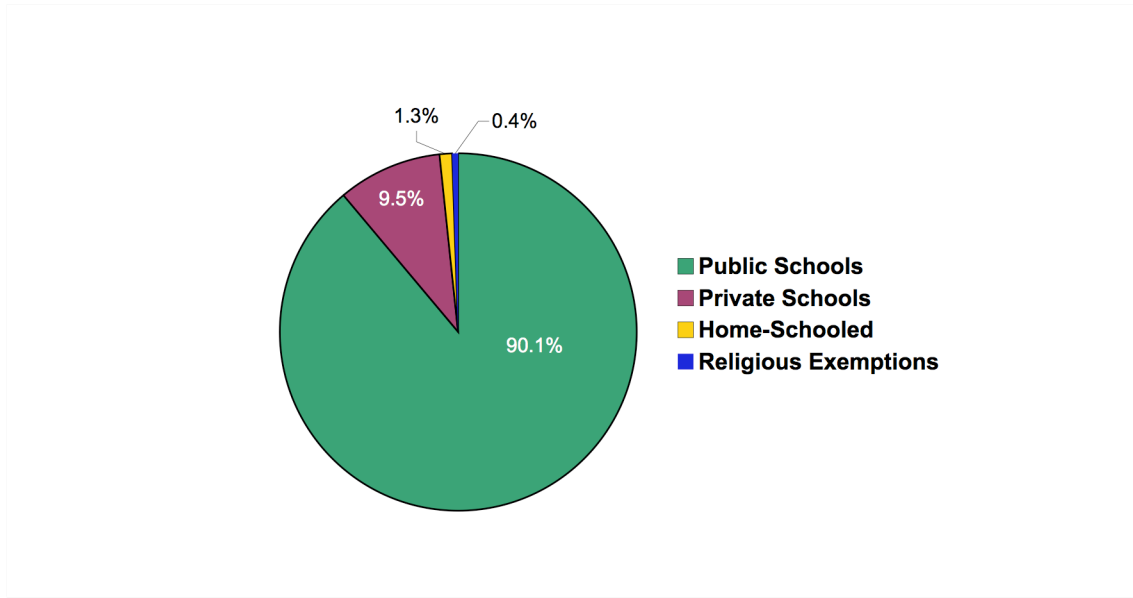


Figure 11. School Enrollment for Virginia's Children, 2005

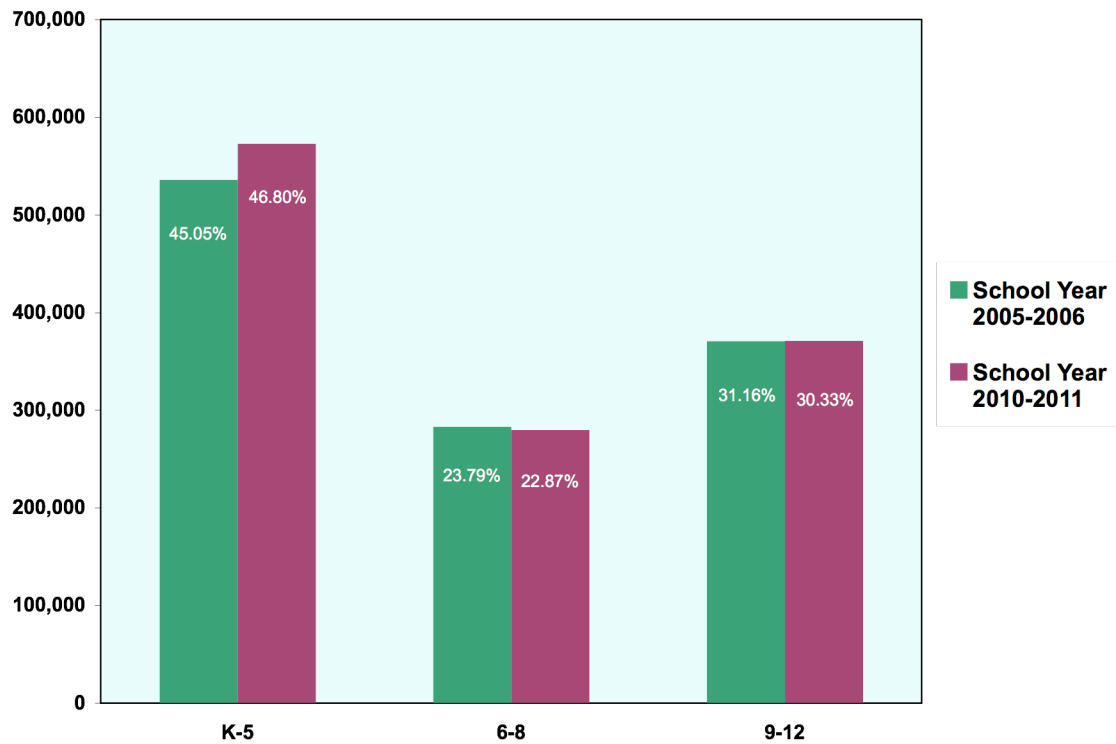


Figure 12. Public School Enrollment in 2005 and Projected Enrollment in 2010 for Virginia

6. Geographic Mobility

The 2000 Census shows that 52 percent of Virginia’s residents aged five years and older were living in the same residence as in 1995. Nearly one-fifth had changed residence within the same locality, 14 percent moved from a different locality within the state, 12 percent moved from another state, and 3 percent moved from abroad (Fig. 13). In this report, those who did not move or moved within the state are defined as non-migrants. Those who moved from another state are defined as migrants, while those who moved from another country and were not U.S. citizens are defined as immigrants. Migrants and immigrants have very different demographic, social, and economic characteristics from non-migrants.

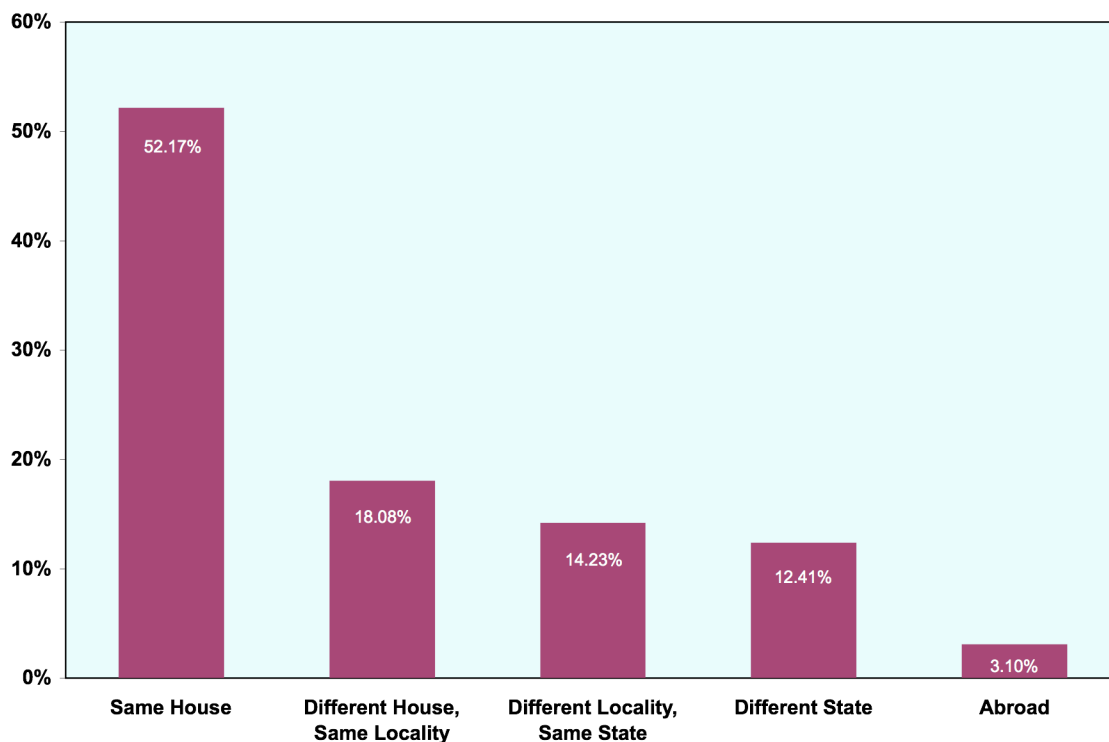


Figure 13. Mobility of Virginia’s Residents, 1995-2000

6.1 Migrants

The population moving to Virginia between 1995 and 2000 were from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The top ten “sending” states were primarily on the East Coast (Fig. 14) and include, in descending order: Maryland, New York, North Carolina, California, Florida, Pennsylvania, Texas, New Jersey, Georgia, and Washington, D.C.

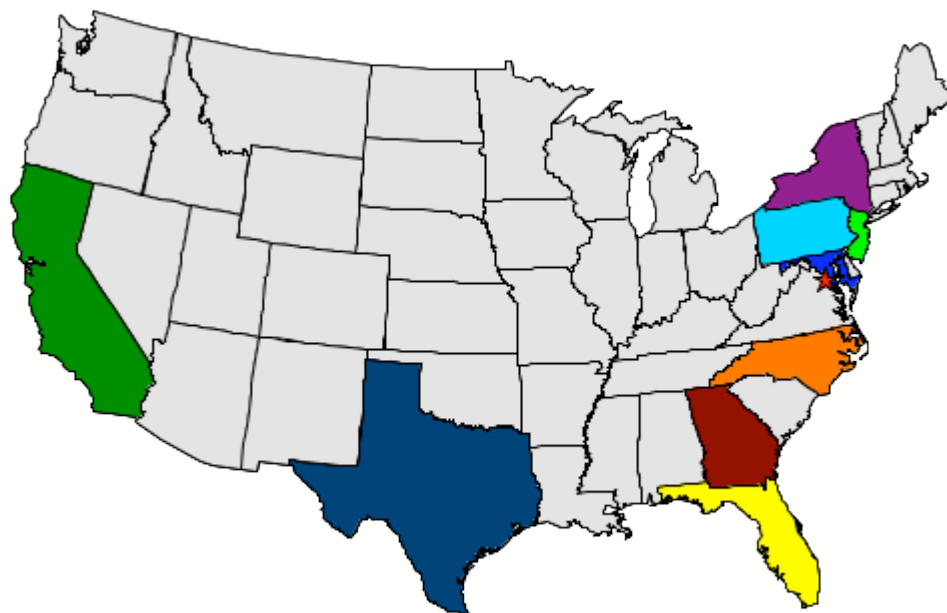


Figure 14. Top Ten Sending States to Virginia, 1995-2000

Compared to non-migrants, migrants were typically younger, better educated, earned higher incomes, and were more likely to work in management, professional and related occupations (Figs. 15-18).

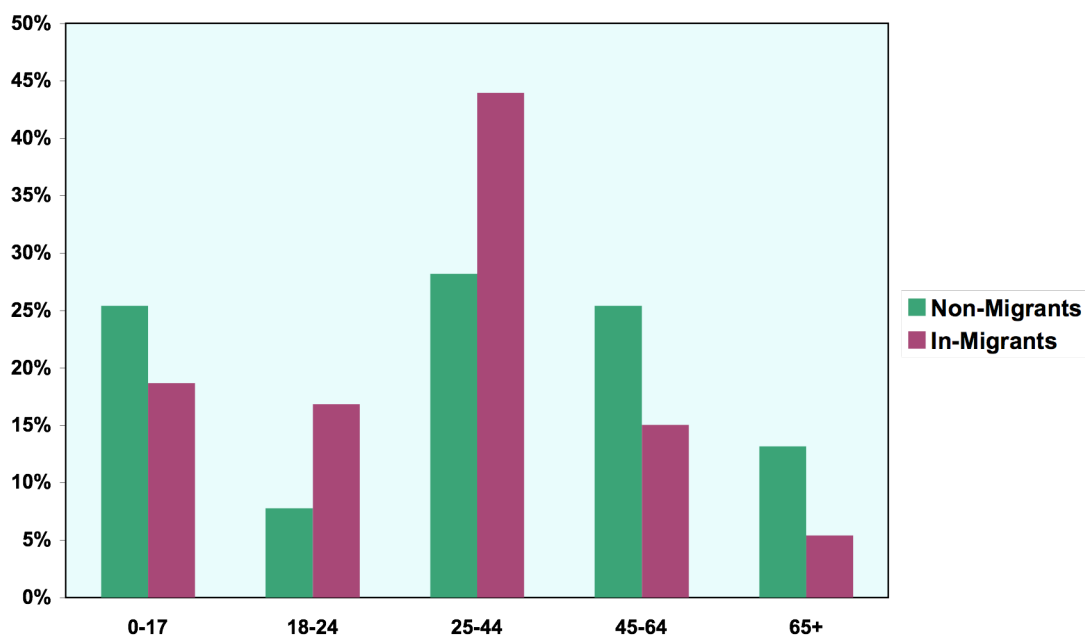


Figure 15. Age Distribution of Non-Migrants and In-Migrants for Virginia, 2000

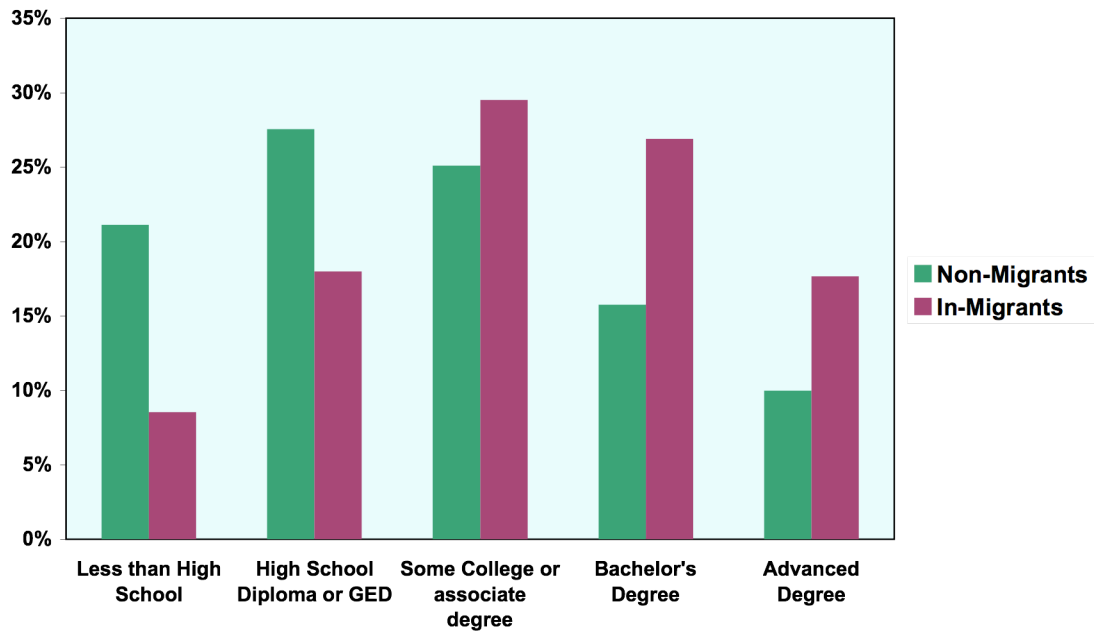


Figure 16. Educational Attainment of Non-Migrants and In-Migrants in Virginia, 2000



Figure 17. Distribution of Income for Non-Migrants and In-Migrants for Virginia, 2000

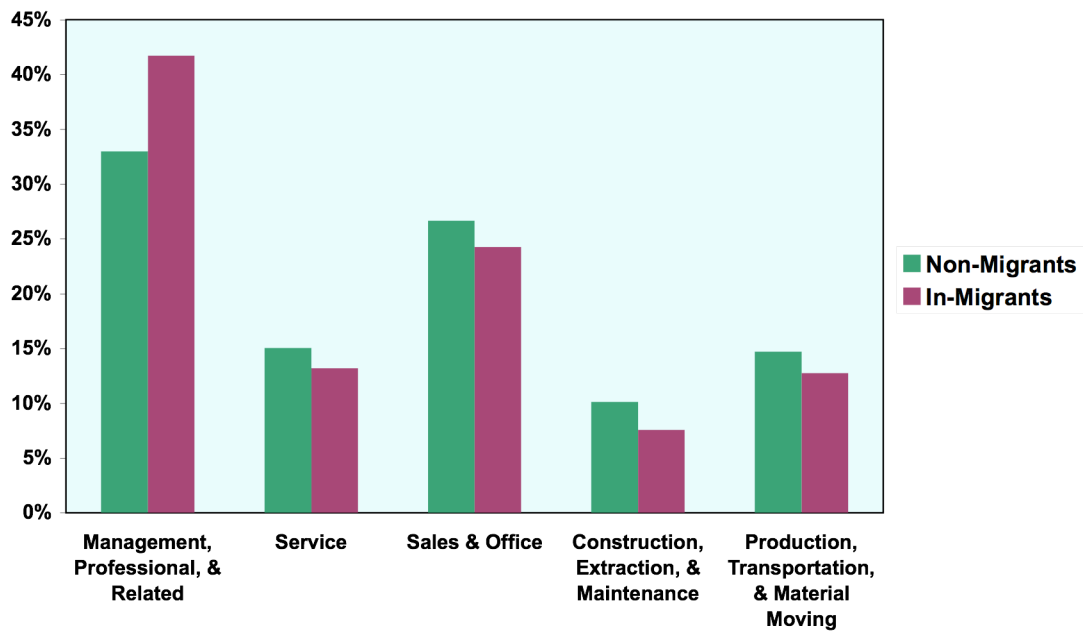


Figure 18. Distribution of Occupations for Non-Migrants and In-Migrants for Virginia, 2000

6.2 Immigrants and Naturalized Citizens

Immigrants came to Virginia from more than 100 countries around the world, with the top ten countries of origin primarily in Latin America and Asia (Table 1).

Country	Number of Immigrants
Mexico	13,000
El Salvador	10,100
India	8,600
Korea	7,000
China	5,500
Canada	3,600
Vietnam	3,500
Philippines	3,400
Guatemala	3,100
Bolivia	2,700

Table 1. Immigrants to Virginia—Top Ten Sending Countries, 1995-2000

Recent immigrants were typically in the prime working age of 25-44, earned less, and were less likely than non-migrants to work in management, professional and related occupations (Figs. 19-21).

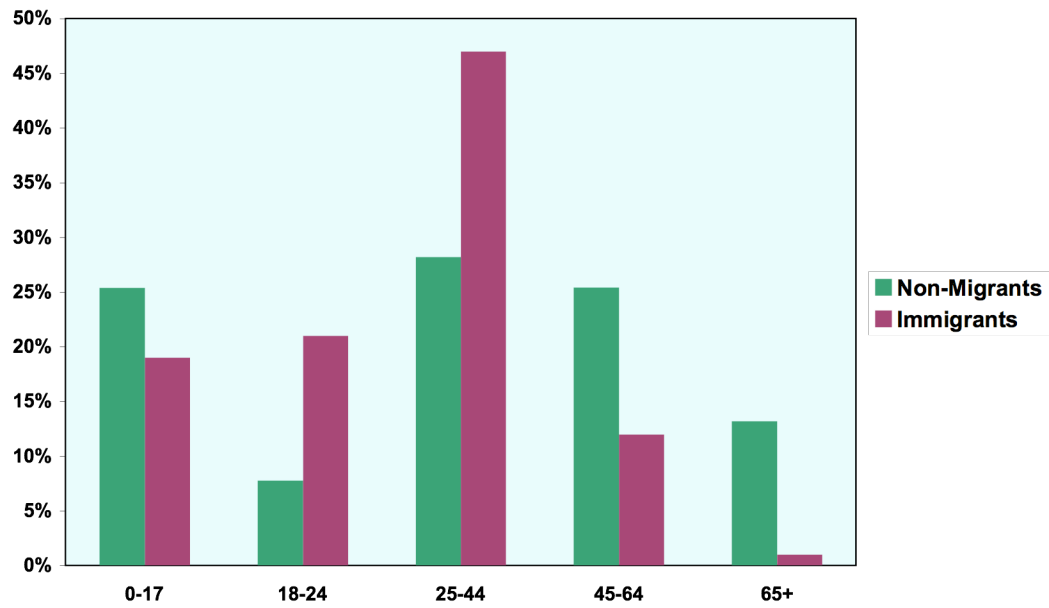


Figure 19. Age Distribution for Non-Migrants and Immigrants in Virginia, 2000

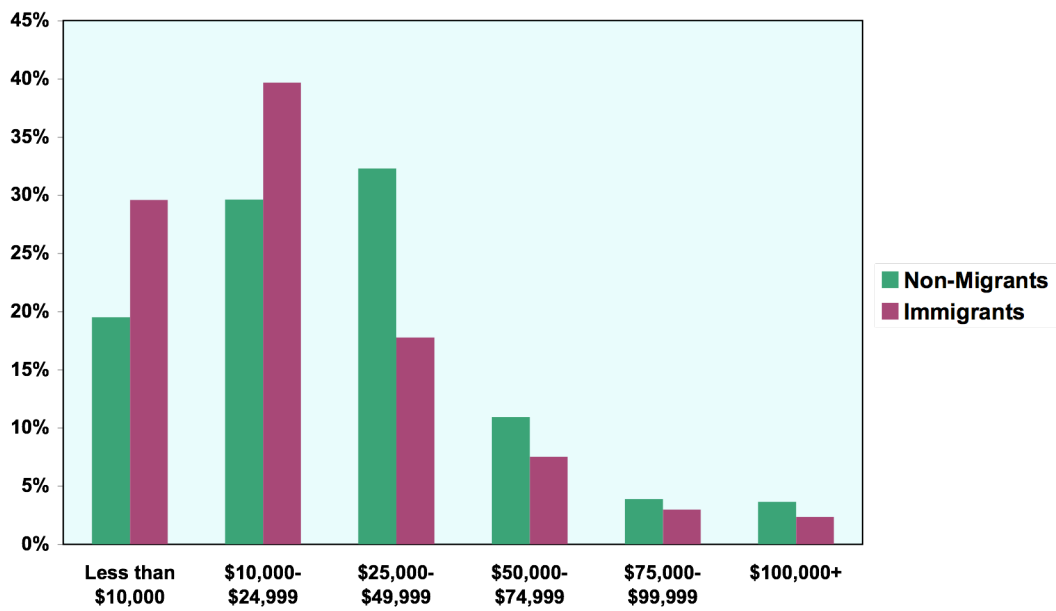


Figure 20. Income Distribution for Non-Migrants and Immigrants in Virginia, 2000

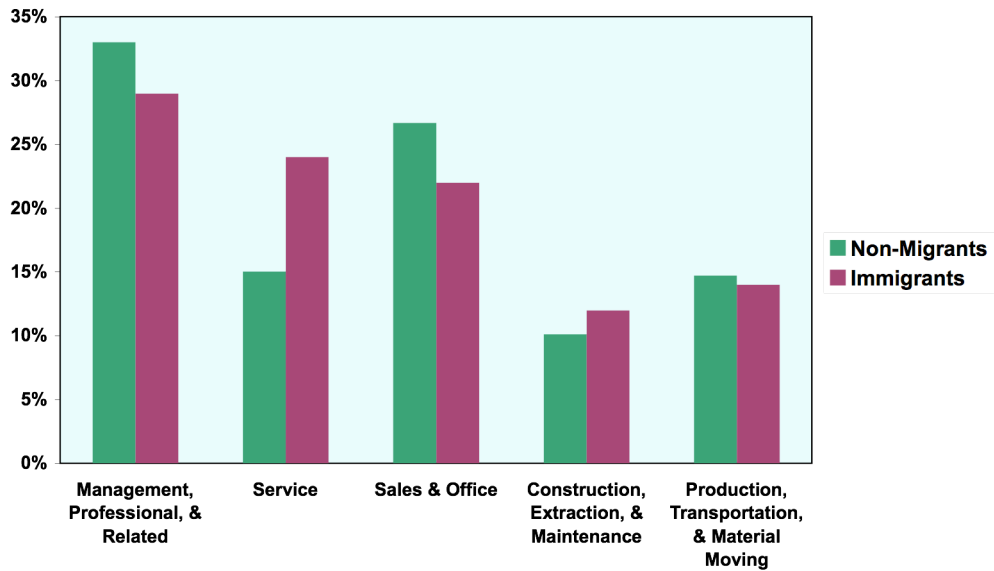


Figure 21. Occupational Distribution for Non-Migrants and Immigrants in Virginia, 2000

Immigrants' educational attainment shows a bimodal distribution (Fig. 22). The proportion of immigrants with less than a high school education was higher than for non-migrants (25 vs. 21 percent, respectively), while the proportion of those who obtained bachelor's and advanced degrees was much higher for immigrants than for non-migrants (46 vs. 26 percent, respectively).

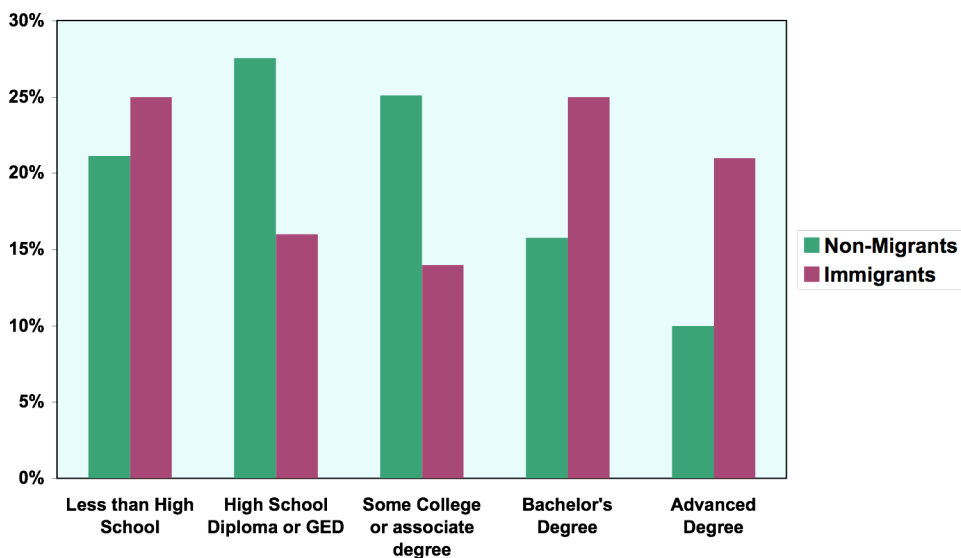


Figure 22. Educational Attainment of Non-Migrants and Immigrants in Virginia, 2000

The characteristics of recent immigrants reflect only part of the picture of Virginia's foreign-born population. In 2005, while one-quarter of Virginia's foreign-born population were recent immigrants who arrived in 2000 or later, 43 percent of the total foreign-born were naturalized citizens. Naturalized citizens represent the more established immigrants, most of whom have been in this country for at least one decade. Virginia's naturalized citizens were typically between the ages of 25 and 64 (Fig. 23). A quarter of this group obtained bachelor's degrees, and 19 percent had advanced degrees (Fig. 24). They earned higher incomes than native citizens, with nearly half working in management, professional and related occupations, compared to 40 percent for native citizens (Figs. 25-26).

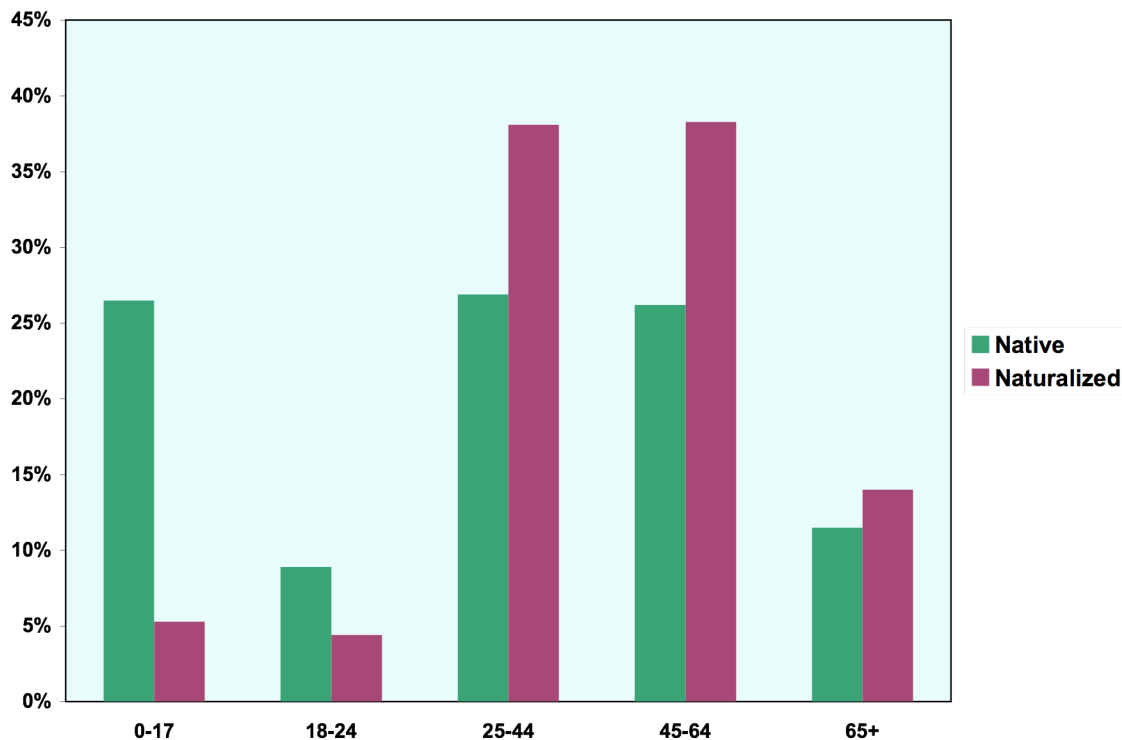


Figure 23. Age Distribution of Native and Naturalized Citizens in Virginia, 2005

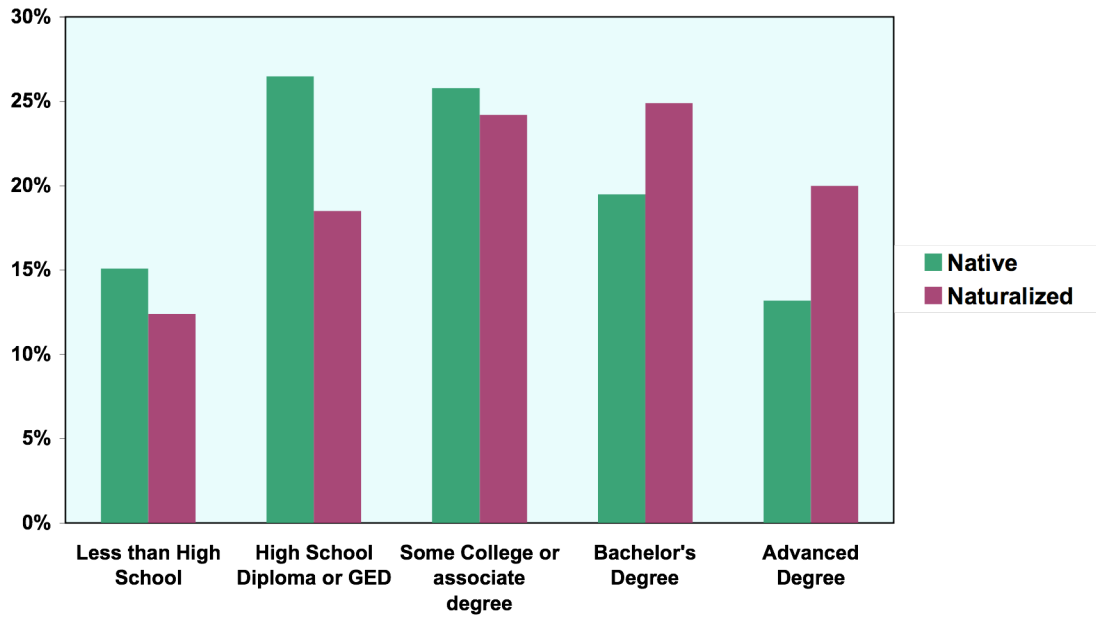


Figure 24. Educational Attainment of Native and Naturalized Citizens in Virginia, 2005

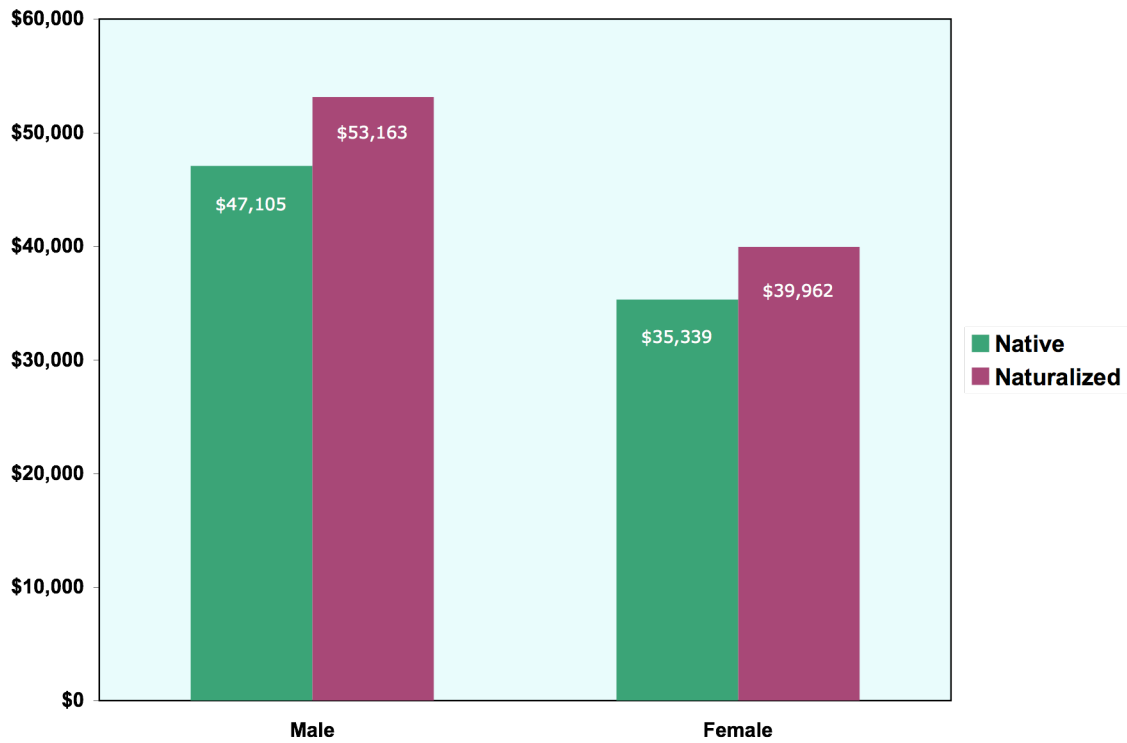


Figure 25. Median Income of Full-Time, Year-Round workers for Native and Naturalized Citizens in Virginia, 2005

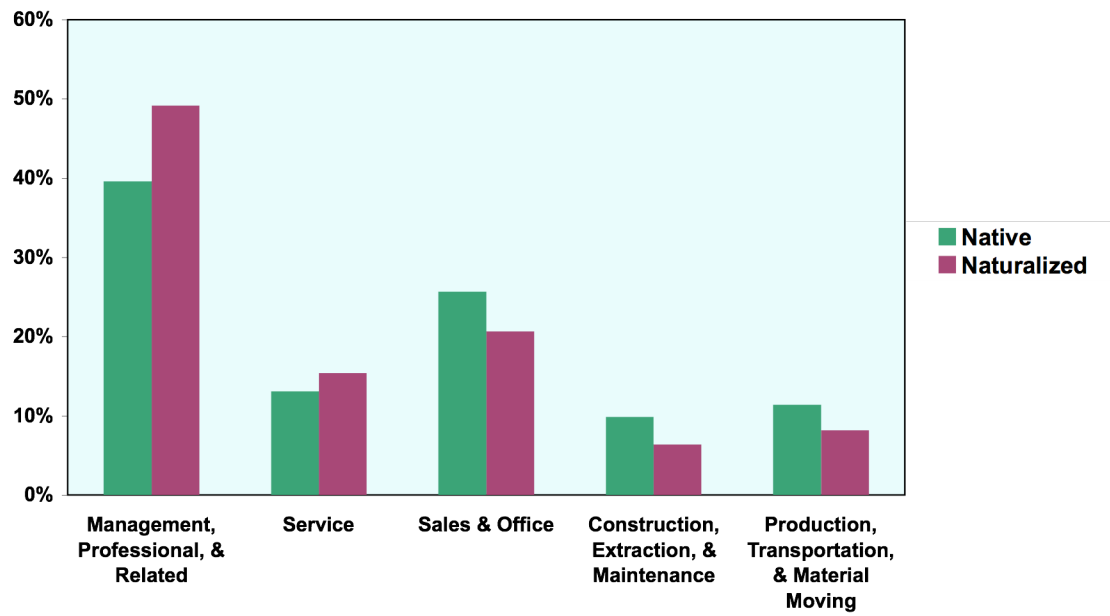


Figure 26. Distribution of Occupations for Native and Naturalized Citizens in Virginia, 2005

7. Nativity and Language

While in 1990 only 5 percent of Virginia's population were foreign-born, the proportion increased to 8 percent in 2000. In 2005, half of the Commonwealth's residents were born in Virginia, 40 percent were born in other states, and 10 percent were born in other countries.

The 2000 Census counted 570,000 foreign-born residing in Virginia. Of these, 55,000 were born in El Salvador, 37,000 in Korea, 36,000 in the Philippines, 33,000 in Mexico, and 31,000 were born in Vietnam. Immigrants from these five countries accounted for one-third of Virginia's foreign-born population.

Among residents at least five years old in 2005, 13 percent spoke a language other than English at home. Nearly half of this group — 45 percent — spoke Spanish, 5 percent spoke Korean, 4 percent spoke Vietnamese, and 4 percent spoke Chinese. While 43 percent reported that they did not speak English "very well," the proportion varied among different ethnic groups. Between 47 and 77 percent of East and Southeast Asians and Hispanics reported that they did not speak English "very well". The top three nationalities reporting that they spoke the least English were Laotians, Cambodians, and the Vietnamese.

8. Employment, Income and Poverty

8.1 Employment

According to the Census Bureau, industry is related to the kind of business conducted by a person's employing organization. In 2005, for the employed population 16 years and older, the leading industries in Virginia were educational, health, and social services, which accounted for 19 percent of all employment, and professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services, with 12 percent of the total. Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and mining were at the bottom, accounting for only 1 percent of all industries (Fig. 27).

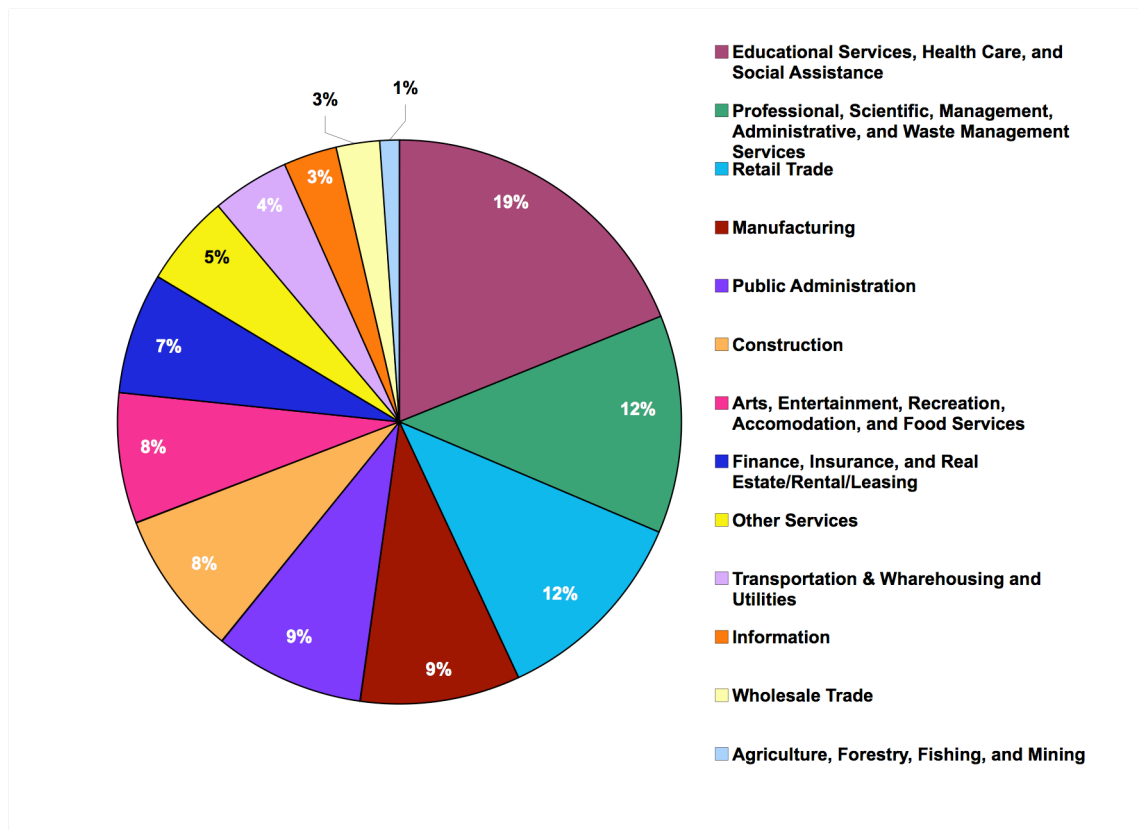


Figure 27. Employment by Industry for Virginia, 2005

The Census Bureau classifies occupations in terms of the kind of work a person performs. Leading occupations in Virginia for those 16 years and older were management, professional, and related occupations, with 39 percent of the total employment, followed by sales and office occupations, with 25 percent of the total (Fig. 28). Nearly three-quarters of the employed were private wage and salary workers, one-fifth were federal, state, or local government workers, and 6 percent were self-employed.

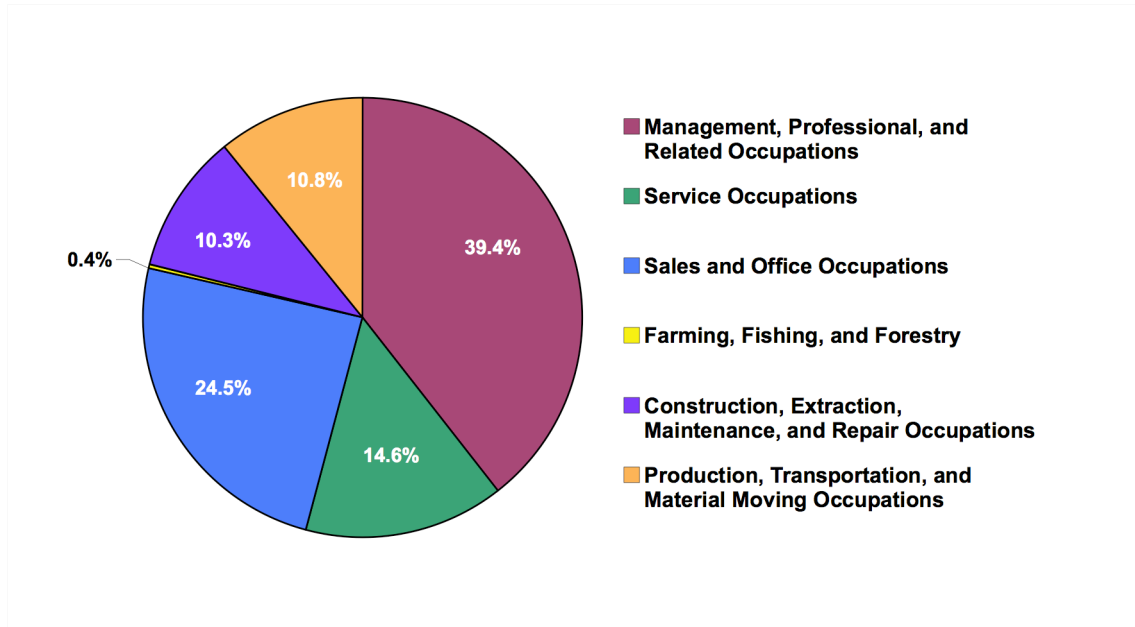


Figure 28. Occupational Distribution for Civilians 16 Years and Older in Virginia, 2005

8.2 Income

The median household income in Virginia for 2005 was \$54,240, \$8,000 higher than the national average of \$46,242. Virginia's household income distribution had a pronounced bimodal distribution, with 24 percent of workers earning between \$25,000 and \$49,999, and 22 percent earning at least \$100,000 (Fig. 29). Median earnings for male, full-time, year-round workers in Virginia were \$46,196, compared to \$41,965 for the United States. For women, the median income was \$35,254 in Virginia and \$32,168 in the United States (Fig. 30).

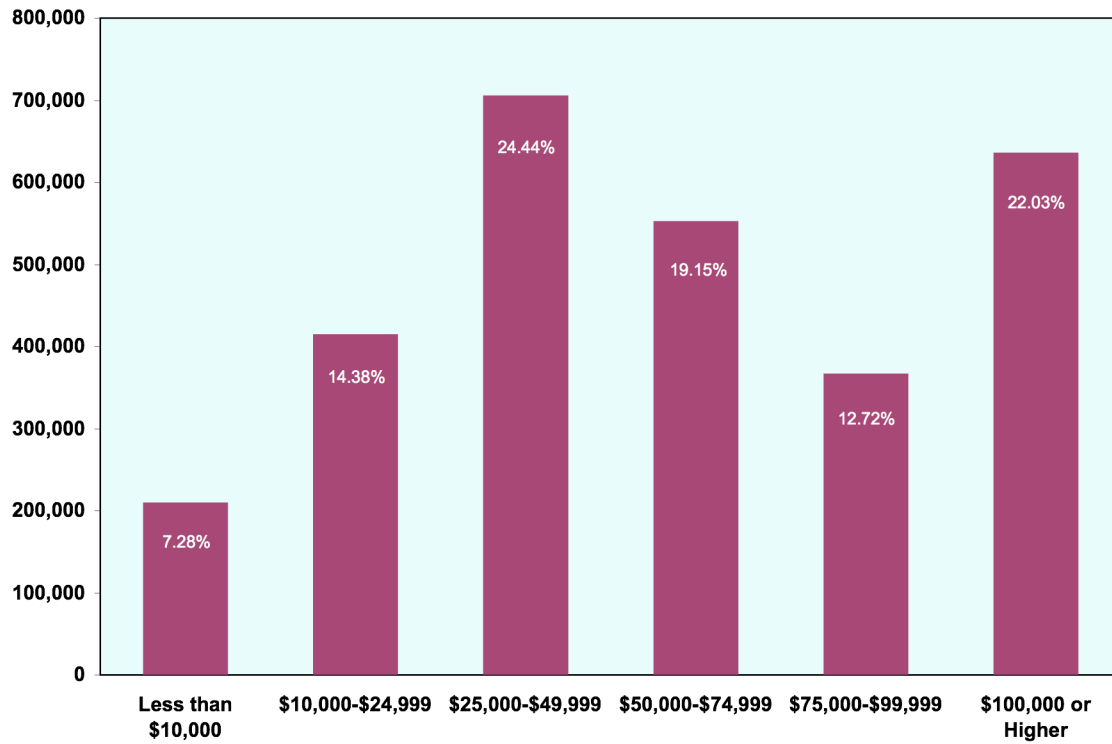


Figure 29. Household Income Distribution in Virginia, 2005

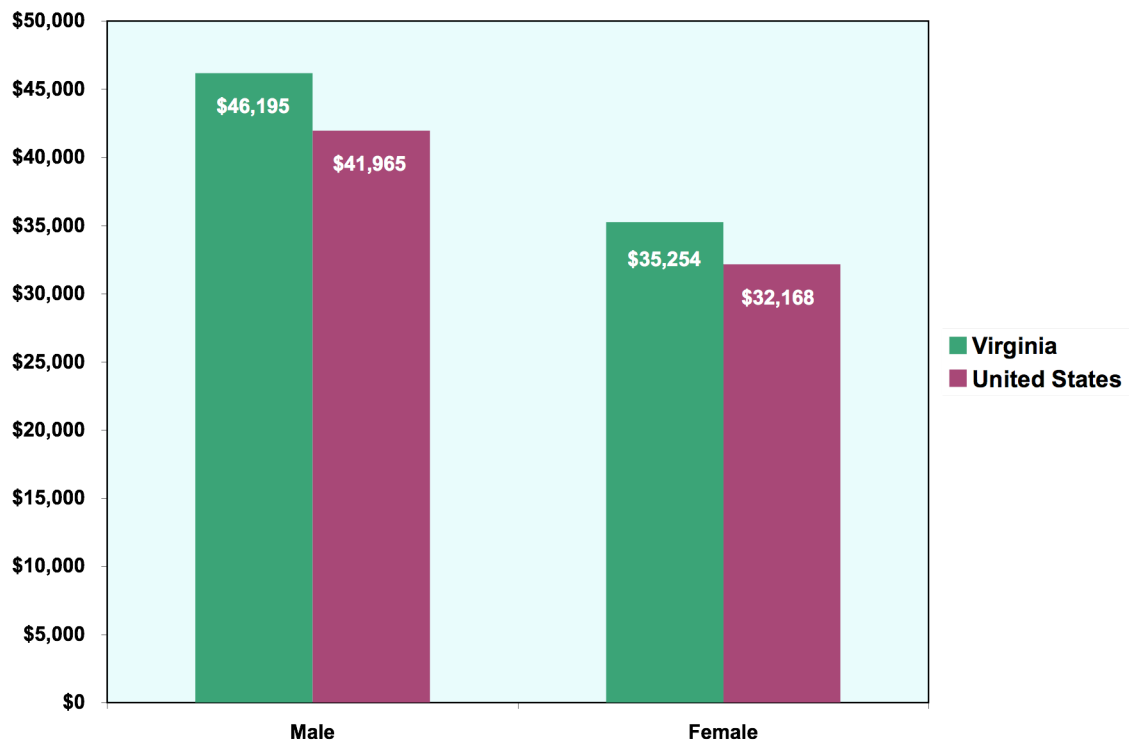


Figure 30. Median Income by Sex for Full-Time, Year-Round Workers in Virginia and the United States, 2005

8.3 Poverty

The Census Bureau determines poverty by comparing a person's total family income with the appropriate poverty threshold for that person's family size. For example, in 2005, the threshold for poverty for a married-couple family with two children under the age of 18 was \$19,806.

In 2005, 10 percent of all households in Virginia were living in poverty, as compared to 13 percent for the United States. Further broken down, seven percent of all Virginian families were living in poverty, compared to the national average of 10 percent. The poverty rate varied considerably by household type. Three percent (47,210) of all married-couple households had incomes below the poverty level while 24 percent (83,568) of all single female-headed families had incomes below the poverty level. Additionally, 10 percent (11,860) of all single male-headed households and 16 percent (156,639) of all non-family households lived below the poverty level (Fig. 31).

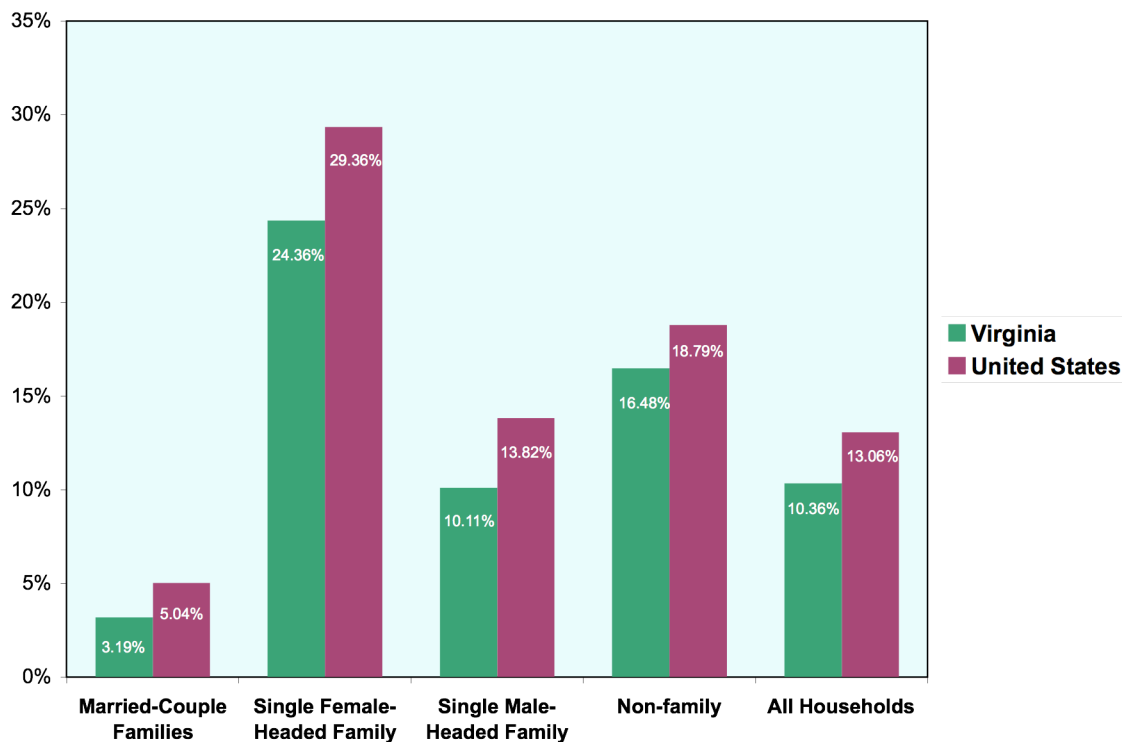


Figure 31. Percentage of Households Living in Poverty by Household Type for Virginia and the United States, 2005

Among families with children under 18 years of age, 38 percent of families headed by single females earned incomes below the poverty level, as compared 18 percent of those headed by single males (Fig. 32). For married couple families, 6 percent were living in poverty. Overall, 13 percent of all families in Virginia with children younger than 18 years of age were living in poverty.

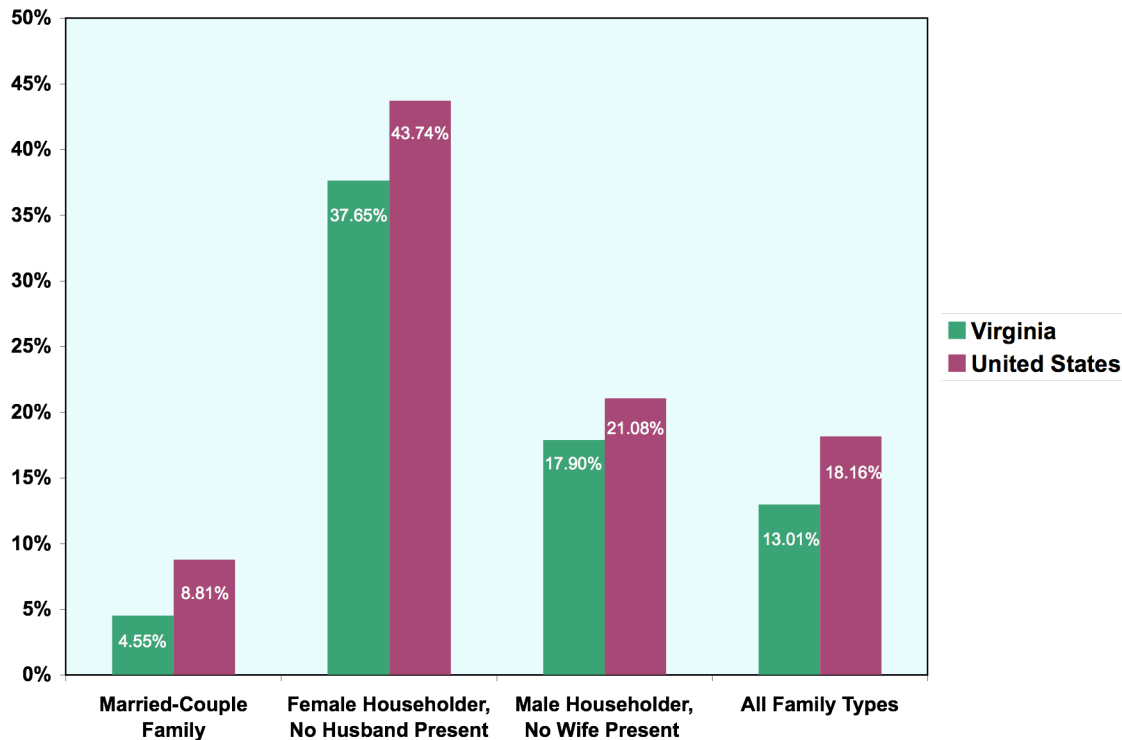


Figure 32. Percentage of Families with Children under 18 Years of Age Living in Poverty by Family Type for Virginia and the United States, 2005

The poverty rate also varied significantly by age and sex. In Virginia, 13 percent of the population under the age of 18 were living below the poverty level, compared to 10 percent of people 65 years old and over. In the United States, the percentages were 19 percent and 10 percent, respectively. Figure 33 shows the proportion of people in 2005 living in poverty by both age group and sex. In general, the percentage of both sexes under the age of 18 living in poverty was nearly equivocal, but for the higher age groups, the percentage of women living in poverty was significantly higher than that of men (12 percent vs. 7 percent, respectively). This trend is identifiable at the national level as well.

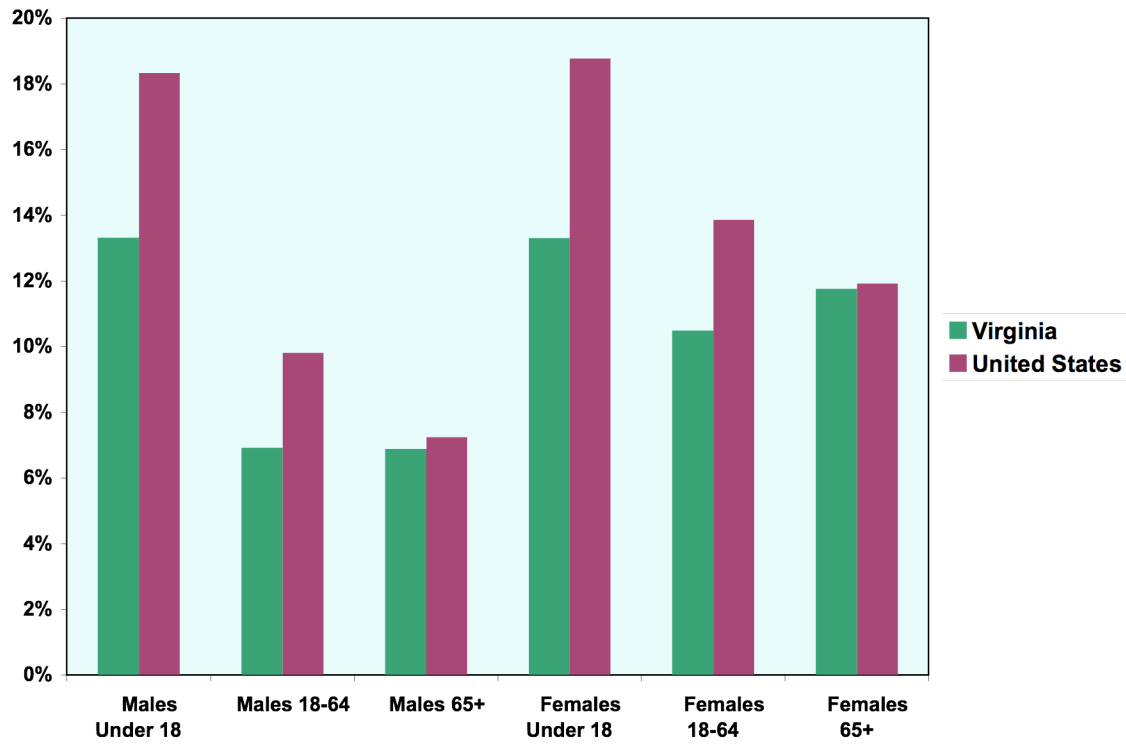


Figure 33. Percentage of Males and Females Living in Poverty by Age group for Virginia and the United States, 2005

9. Veterans

There were over 757,000 veterans in Virginia in 2005, accounting for 10 percent of the total population. Among them, 31 percent were Gulf War veterans, 34 percent were Vietnam era veterans, 11 percent were Korean War veterans, and 10 percent were World War II veterans (Fig. 34).

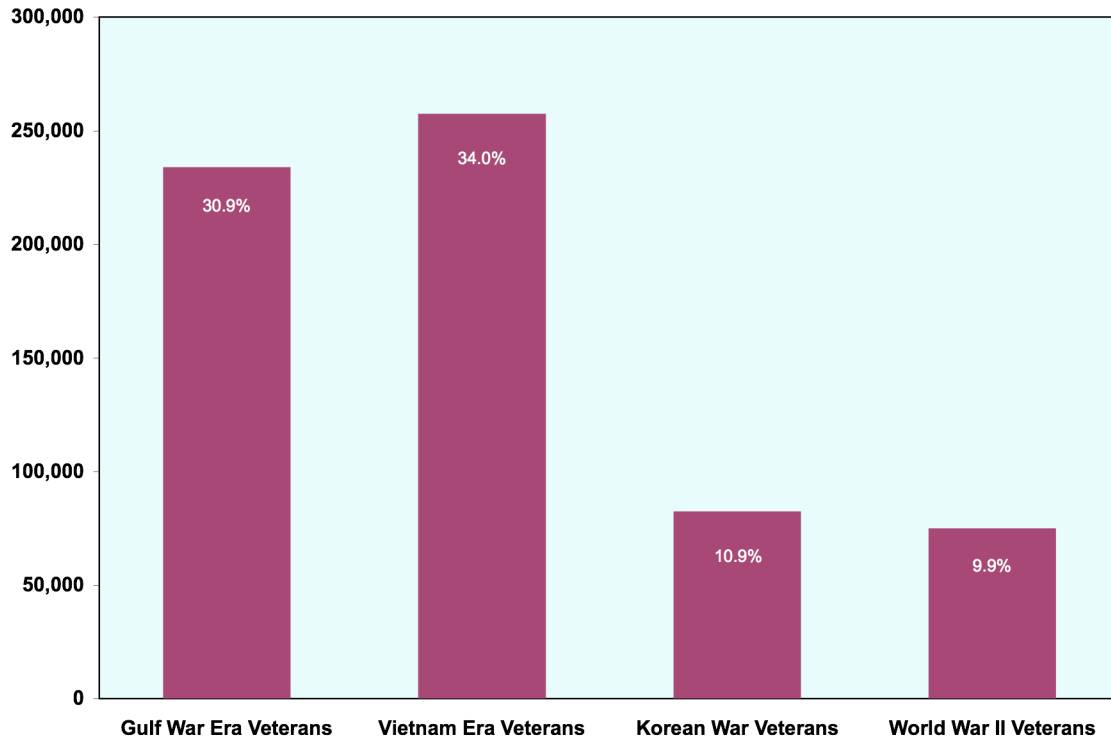


Figure 34. Select Periods of Service for Virginia's Veterans, 2005

In 2005, more than one-third of veterans held bachelor's degrees or higher. The median income for veterans was \$42,000. For those age 18 to 64, 82.2 percent were in the labor force. The unemployment rate for veterans was 3.6 percent, while for non-veterans the rate was 5.1 percent. Twenty-one percent of veterans had a disability, compared to 15 percent of non-veterans.

10. Housing Characteristics

There were 3.2 million housing units in Virginia in 2005, including more than 270,000 units built since 2000. The overall vacancy rate for all unit types — owned as well as rented — increased from 7 to 9 percent between 2000 and 2005. However, the homeowner vacancy rate decreased slightly, from 1.5 to 1.0 percent. Among the 2.9 million occupied housing units, 2 million (70 percent) were owner-occupied and 877,000 (30 percent) were renter occupied.

Virginia's housing stock was mostly comprised of single-unit structures (73 percent). Multi-unit structures accounted for 22 percent of the total housing stock while mobile homes accounted for 5 percent. More than one-quarter of these housing units were built since 1990.

In 2005, median monthly housing costs for owner-occupied units with an existing mortgage were \$1,411. For owner-occupied units without a mortgage, median costs were \$328 per month. For renters, median monthly rent was \$812. Thirty-one percent of homeowners with mortgages, 12 percent of homeowners without mortgages, and 42 percent of renters spent 30 percent or more of their total income on housing.

11. Population Projections

According to Census Bureau projections, Virginia's population will reach 8 million by 2010, 8.9 million by 2020, and 9.8 million by 2030. While the population continues to grow by nearly one million per decade, its annual growth rate is projected to slow down from 1.2 percent between 2000 and 2010 to 1.0 percent between 2020-2030.

The most noticeable change during the next 25 years will occur as the baby boom generation reaches age 65 and over. The oldest baby boomers will reach retirement age around 2010, while the youngest baby boomers will reach age 65 by 2030. As a result, the 65 and older population's share of the total is projected to increase from 11 percent in 2000 to 19 percent in 2030 (Figs. 35-36).

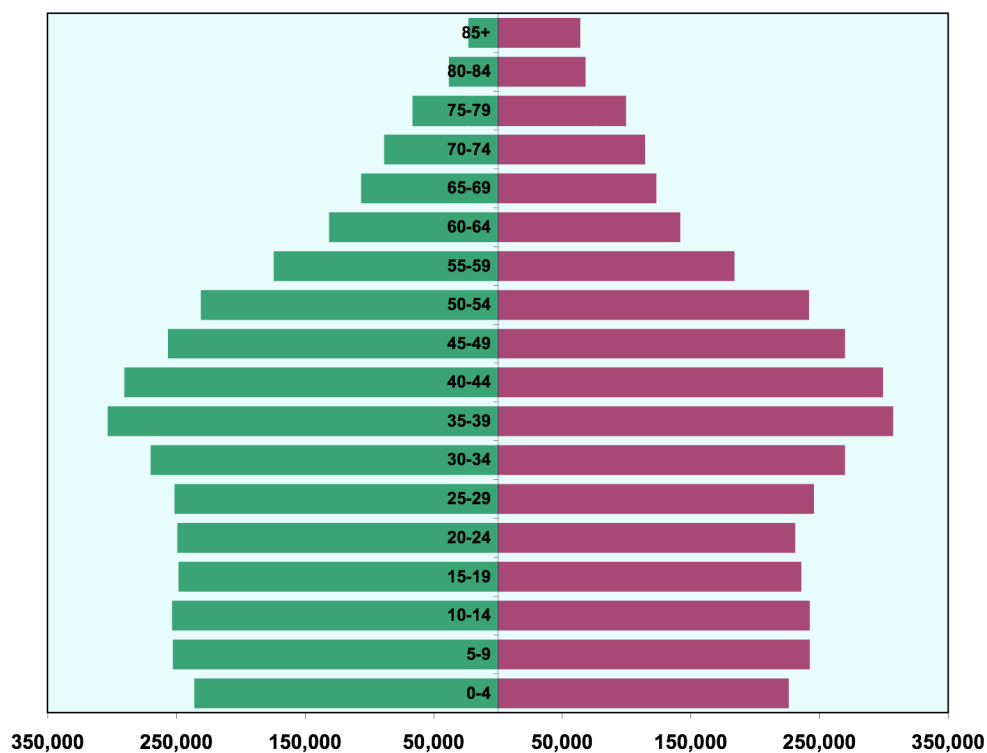


Figure 35. Population Pyramid for Virginia, 2000

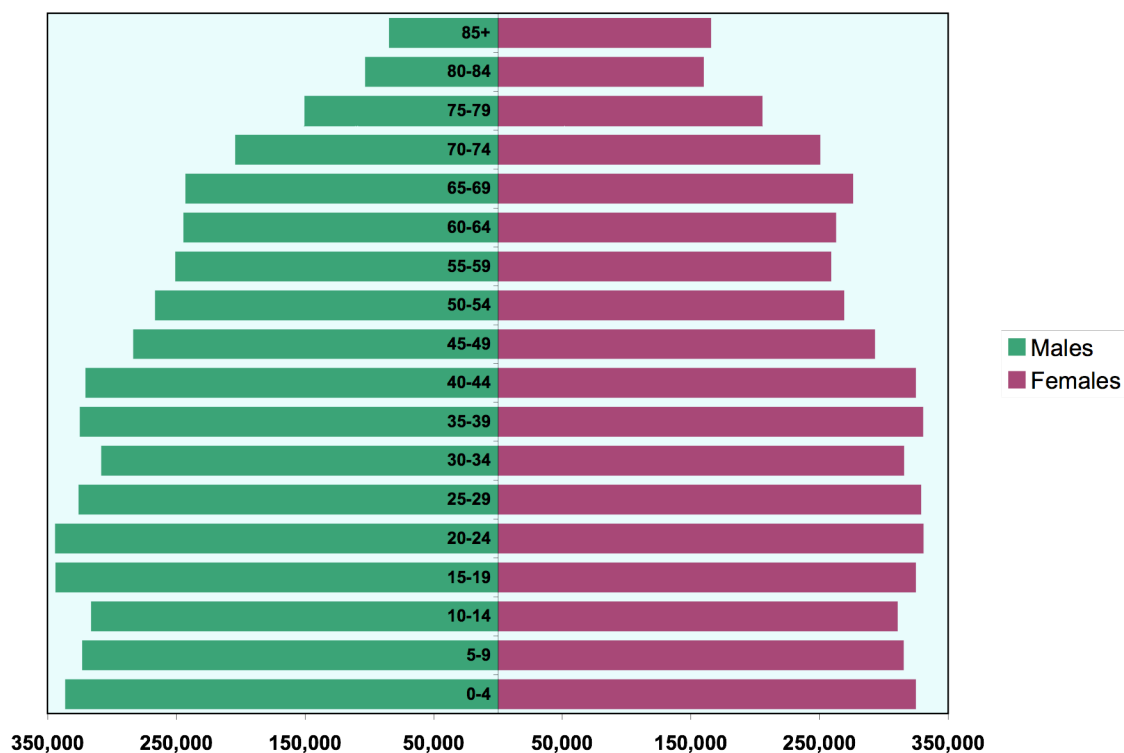


Figure 36. Projected Population Pyramid for Virginia, 2030

In addition to a large proportion of seniors, there will be an increasingly greater number of elderly women without spouses or partners. In 2000, senior women outnumbered senior men by 147,000. In 2030, that number is projected to be 272,000.

12. Future Trends

Three critical trends stand out for Virginia's population over the next few decades: selective decentralization, an aging population, and increasing racial and ethnic diversity.

First, Virginia's population distribution is likely to experience further selective decentralization. Selective decentralization refers to people moving away from the state's central cities and counties and relocating to their surrounding suburbs and exurbs. One result of this continuing process is an increase in the total number of places defined as metropolitan. The number of Virginia's counties and cities considered metropolitan areas by the Census Bureau increased from 52 in 1980 to 80 in 2000.

As the Commonwealth's population continues to grow, the number of metropolitan areas as well as the boundaries of the existing metro areas is expected to increase and expand. Rural counties adjacent to metro areas are likely to experience significant population growth as space and affordable housing become harder to obtain in the urban core areas. Counties with significant quality of life advantages, those with access to urban amenities (either their own or ones nearby), and those with a diversified, service-based economy are particularly prone to rapid growth. On the other hand, counties that are isolated and dependent on a single declining industry, such as farming, mining, textiles, or furniture manufacturing, are likely to experience further population loss due to out-migration.

Second, the average age of the population will increase as the baby boom generation enters retirement age. Current fertility rates are below the replacement level of 2.1 children per woman, and medical advances have improved longevity. As a result, Virginia's population, like the nation as a whole, will experience significant aging in the next few decades. By 2030, nearly one in every five Virginians will be 65 years or older. This population will be predominantly women, as women have a longer life expectancy than men.

As the baby boomers age, the percentage of older workers will increase as will the average age of the labor force. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects an increasing labor force participation rate for those age 55 to 64 in the short term. The major reason for this is related to retirement financing. The minimum age at which a worker can receive full Social Security benefits is rising. Additionally, there is a trend among employers away from more costly defined benefit retirement plans towards less expensive defined contribution plans, which are more financially rewarding to those who work beyond normal retirement age.

Third, racial and ethnic diversity within Virginia will increase as a result of both immigration and births to immigrant parents and racially mixed couples. Immigrants are typically young, at the peak of their work productivity as well as at the height of their reproductive years. While non-Hispanic Whites will continue to be the majority of Virginia's population in the next few decades, Asian and Hispanic proportions will further increase due to differential fertility and immigration. The Black proportion is

likely to stabilize around 20 percent, while the American Indian population will remain to be a tiny fraction of the total population.